

Israel denies clash with Syrians

BEIRUT (R) — Beirut Radio stations said Saturday the Syrian and Israeli armies traded shellfire after two Israeli soldiers were killed in an attack Friday night, but Israel dismissed the report as nonsense. The right-wing "Voice of Lebanon" radio said the two soldiers were killed and five wounded when an Israeli patrol was attacked near the Bekaa Valley town of Jib Janin in eastern Lebanon. The Syrians and Israeli armies exchanged artillery fire for half an hour after the incident, the radio said, quoting "press observers." A similar report was carried by state-run Beirut Radio. But an Israeli military spokesman outside Beirut said the reports were nonsense. He said there were no Israeli casualties in eastern Lebanon Saturday or Friday night, nor any reports of incidents between the Syrian and Israeli armies.

Volume 8 Number 2313

AMMAN, SUNDAY JULY 17, 1983 — SHAWWAL 7, 1403

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Italian jets intercept Tarom

ROME (R) — Italian air force jet fighters Saturday intercepted a Romanian airliner which had entered Italian airspace without authorisation and escorted it out. The Tarom Airways BAC-111 on a flight from Libya to Romania was intercepted by two Starfighter jets as it flew over Crotone in southern Italy, an air force official said.

Typhoon Vera nears Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — Typhoon Vera, which has killed 18 people in a trail of destruction through the Philippines, moved closer to Hong Kong Saturday night on its way towards the South China coast. A "strong wind" warning was issued and the weather bureau here said Vera was expected to continue on northwesterly course towards the British colony. Some ferry services in the British colony have already been disrupted, and the weather bureau warned the public not to delay in taking precautions against the typhoon.

India wants safeguard in no-war pact

KARACHI (R) — A proposed no-war pact between India and Pakistan will deny use of bases to superpowers, the Indian ambassador to Pakistan, K.D. Sharma, said in an interview published Saturday. Mr. Sharma told the Karachi's Daily News that India was not worried if the bases obtained by the United States in Pakistan would be used against India. What worried India was that if the two countries became involved in superpower proxy battles their own people would be killed, he added.

13 ethnic Albanians jailed in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE (R) — A Yugoslav court Saturday sentenced a group of 13 young ethnic Albanians to jail terms of between four months and 12 years for anti-state activities and spreading hostile propaganda. The court in the town of Pec, 20 kilometres from the Albanian border in the southern Yugoslav province of Kosovo, said all 13 were members of an illegal Albanian nationalist group which aimed to undermine the unity of Yugoslavia by separating Kosovo from the federation.

Jewish zealots stone Sabbath violators

TEL AVIV (R) — Ultra-orthodox Jews protesting against what they regard as desecration of the Sabbath injured a woman driver Saturday when they threw stones at Israeli cars in Jerusalem. Israel Radio said. The woman was hurt by a stone hurled through the windscreen of a car she was driving in the suburb of Ramot.

Policeman shot in N. Ireland

CASTLEWELLAN, Northern Ireland (R) — An 18-year-old policeman was shot and wounded by snipers as he directed traffic Saturday, police said. Gunmen opened fire from a house they seized Friday night, taking the occupants hostage, the police said. The gunmen fled in a stolen car after the shooting.

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Jordan Times

An independent ARAB political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورنال تايمز جريدة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية "الراي"

Libya welcomes OAU appeal

BEIRUT (R) — Libya Saturday welcomed an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) appeal for an immediate ceasefire in Chad, reconciliation and an end to foreign intervention. The Libyan news agency JANA, in a dispatch monitored in Beirut, said Libya "welcomed and supported the statement." It showed that the OAU was determined to solve the Chad problem in an "African framework," JANA said. "It is a problem that concerns the OAU, thus forcing out all the parties outside the African continent especially the imperialist countries," the Libyan news agency added. Libya was ready to cooperate fully with the OAU in all efforts to bring about peace and security without foreign intervention in Chad, it said. The Chad government has accused Libya of backing the rebels in the conflict raging in the vast landlocked African country, but Tripoli has denied the charge.

Shi'ite Muslims demonstrate against clashes in Beirut

Israelis shoot down protester in S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli troops killed a demonstrator in southern Lebanon Saturday as Shi'ite Muslims in some parts of the country staged protests over Friday's clashes between the Lebanese army and gunmen in Beirut.

An Israeli military spokesman said the dead man had been with a group of protesters blocking roads near the centre of the southern port of Tyre.

In mainly Muslim west Beirut, where newspapers estimated that six people were killed and 20 wounded in Friday's fighting, many shops shut down Saturday in the protest called by the Shi'ite paramilitary organisation Amal.

Amal supporters and Lebanese army troops battled for more than eight hours after security forces had tried to evict Shi'ite refugees who were using an old Jewish school as a school for their children.

Saturday morning, army vehicles stood at every entrance to the decaying Shi'ite quarter where the fighting took place. Soldiers searched cars entering and leaving the area.

Some food stores were open but most shops were closed.

"It is all very calm now," a shopkeeper said. "I have not seen any arrests this morning."

In other Shi'ite areas of Beirut, such as the southern suburbs, the strike call had a mixed effect.

But the radio station of the leftist Murabitoun organisation said the shopkeepers' strike had effectively closed down Israeli-occupied South Lebanon for the day.

Shi'ite villages near the port of Sidon joined the protest shutdown, a Reuter correspondent in the area reported.

Three members of a television news team from the American ABC network were held by Lebanese military security for 90 minutes.

utes after being detained in a Shi'ite district of Beirut, network bureau chief Charles Glass said.

Mr. Glass said they were treated correctly and allowed to take all their videotape and equipment when released.

Highway cut

State-run Beirut Radio later reported that unidentified armed men had cut the highway between Beirut and Damascus at the Ta'anayel crossroads in the Bekaa Valley.

They burned tyres and traffic was paralysed, the radio said. A student travelling to the central Bekaa town of Zahle was kidnapped at an armed checkpoint in the Baalbek area to the northeast, the radio added.

Lebanon's traditional Shi'ite leadership Saturday called on the community to support the Lebanese government and army.

But the Druze dominated Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) voiced full support for the peaceful strike called by the radical Shi'ite Amal militia group, whose supporters fought the army Friday.

A PSP statement blamed Lebanon's officials for fighting.

Eyewitnesses, reporting on Saturday's protest, said most shops in Sidon joined the protest shutdown, a Reuter correspondent in the area reported.

Radio stations said at least a dozen people were wounded in the mountain artillery exchanges.

Casualties in the Beirut suburbs were not immediately known.

The shelling on the southeastern edge of the capital was the most intense for many months.

The Falangist radio station told its listeners to shelter in their basements as shells crashed into mainly rightist suburbs at a rate of several rounds per minute, apparently from hillside positions of Druse militias.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 3)

PLO official says revolt backed by pact with an Arab country

Tripoli protests Beirut clashes

By Lamis K. Andoni
in Tripoli

This north Lebanese port city observed a general strike Saturday in protest against clashes Friday between the Lebanese army and Amal Shi'ite gunmen in Beirut.

Tripoli is considered to be one of the main strongholds of the opponents of the Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal agreement of May 17 and various Lebanese and Palestinian groups here accuse the government in Beirut of aiming to spread "Falangist hegemony."

President Amin Gemayel's father, Pierre, is one of the founders of the Falangist Party which was engaged in a bloody civil war with Lebanese leftists in 1975-76 and immediately after Mr. Gemayel assumed the presidency in 1982 the leftists feared he would impose Falangist control over the country. The mood in Tripoli nowadays reflects such an attitude.

Meanwhile, senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official claimed Friday that an agreement was reached between an Arab country, which he did not identify by name, and dissidents in the Fateh commando movement.

(Continued on page 3)

Reagan: U.S. will sign Madrid accords

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has announced that the United States will sign the Madrid European security conference accord in the hope that it will achieve a more stable and constructive relationship with the Soviet Union.

In a special statement released in Washington late Friday, Mr. Reagan said he believed the accord reached at the 35-state European security conference was the best attainable.

He said it would add important

new elements to the final act of the first security conference in Helsinki in 1975, including commitments on human rights, disarmament and military confidence-building measures in Europe, and on human contacts — covering marriage, travel and family reunification — across East-West borders.

Mr. Reagan said the United States had accepted the accord with no illusions about the nature of the Soviet Union or about the system he said it sought to impose on

much of Europe.

The accord includes plans for meetings on human rights, on disarmament and military confidence-building measures in Europe, and on human contacts — covering marriage, travel and family reunification — across East-West borders.

Malta has held up a formal signing of the Madrid document by insisting on its long-standing demand for a Mediterranean security conference.

The Sikorsky 61 is a twin-turbine all-weather helicopter with space for three crew and up to 30 passengers.

The helicopter service flies holidaymakers to and from the Scilly Isles several times a day in the summer.

A British Airways spokesman said: "Until now we have never had a fatal accident in any of our helicopters, which we have been operating since 1947."

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HOME**Abdullah congratulates Saddam**

AMMAN (Petra) — His Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, the Regent, Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on his country's National Day.

In his cable Prince Abdullah paid tribute to the Iraqi people and armed forces for their continued struggle to repel aggression and their successes in their endeavours to defend the Arab homeland.

Iraq Sunday celebrates the 15th anniversary of its July revolution.

On the occasion, Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Shuja' Sultan will give a grand reception to which he invited senior Jordanian officials and key public figures.



His Highness Prince Abdullah, the Regent, is briefed by Royal Scientific Society (RSS) officials during a visit he made to the RSS Saturday. (Petra photo)

Road accident claims 3 lives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three people were killed in a road accident that occurred on Wadi Al Sammou' Road near Irbid Friday, according to a report in Al Ra'i newspaper.

The report said that those killed were all Jordanian nationals: Salih Ali Saleh (22), Marwan Ahmad Mahmoud (22) and Omar Ahmad Mahmoud (4).

It said that the three were travelling in a car bearing a Saudi licence plate when it swerved and overturned suddenly as it was travelling towards Irbid.

The report does not say if any other passengers were in the car or whether any other vehicle was involved.

Abdullah visits RSS

AMMAN (Petra) — His Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, the Regent, Saturday called at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and met with its deputy director general and senior aides.

During the visit, Prince Abdullah heard a briefing on the RSS's

development and its programmes. He also saw a documentary film on the RSS's various activities and its role in promoting the Jordanian economic and industrial development.

Later, Prince Abdullah toured

the RSS's laboratories and other sections and inspected the various projects in progress there.

Prince Abdullah was accompanied on the visit by the Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid.

Dr. Tal opens summer courses for teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — Education Minister Sa'id Al Tal Saturday opened this year's summer courses for teachers employed by the Ministry of Education.

In a speech to the participants Dr. Tal said the courses are designed to improve and develop teaching methods and teachers' skills with the purpose of promoting education in Jordan.

The advancement of society cannot be achieved without the

development of education, and the teachers have a major and vital role to play towards this end, Dr. Tal said.

The minister said that the government realises the problems that the teachers face and is constantly trying to improve their social and economic conditions. "Our national duty requires from us to offer sacrifices and to work relentlessly and conscientiously," Dr. Tal added.

Dr. Said Al Tal

German cultural attaches visit Yarmouk University

IRBID (J.T.) — West German cultural attaches in Arab countries Saturday visited Yarmouk University and looked into its programmes and activities.

During the tour dean of the Faculty of Art and Humanities Dr. Mu'aawieh Ibrahim briefed the guests on the development of the

Sharif announces formation of Islamic Legal Committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Al Sharif Saturday announced the formation of an Islamic Legal Committee chaired by Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Ibrahim Al Qattan.

The council comprises Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, dean of the Sharia' (Islamic law) College; Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, Awqaf under secretary; Mr. Fazza-

din Al Khatib, dean of Al Quds Community College; Dr. Ibrahim Zaid Al Kilani, vice dean of Sharia' College; Mohammad Shaqra, director of mosques and Mr. Mohammad Abu Sardaneh, member of the legal Islamic Court.

The Grand Mufti of Jordan will be the committee's rapporteur and Dr. Khalil Humaid will be the council's secretary.

Marj Al Hamam to hold first municipal elections

AMMAN (Petra) — The first municipal election at Marj Al Hamam will take place on Monday, according to deputy governor of Amman Ahmad Al Qur'an.

He said that a total of 18 candidates of two blocs are contesting nine seats in the council which will represent the villages of Marj Al Hamam, Umm Abhara and Umm

4-week training course on accounting opens at IPA

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-week training course on industrial cost accounting opened at the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) Saturday.

Altogether 18 executive directors and senior employees in a number of public companies and

local institutions are taking part in the course which is being held at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The participants will be oriented on subjects related to the cost of profit and loss in industrial projects, control of industrial cost and other related topics.

Israelis shoot down demonstrator

(Continued from page 1)

The army brought in reinforcements to patrol the streets of the capital and strengthened its checkpoints on main streets with armoured vehicles.

The right-wing Falangist radio broadcast a warning from the army that it would move to restore order in case of any disturbances.

Security sources said no violent incidents were reported Saturday morning in Beirut.

Friday's fighting in Beirut involved light artillery, machineguns, rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles. The army detained 400 people and seemed confident they included all the gunmen.

In the Wadi Abu Jamil district, formerly Beirut's Jewish quarter, the army appeared to be in full control of the streets Friday night.

Army officers were relaxed and pointed out where the heaviest fighting had taken place outside a former Jewish school still known as the *Alliance Israélite*.

The officers clearly felt there was no danger from snipers despite Friday's constant stream of gunfire from buildings in the area.

30-year-old man commits fratricide

IRBID (J.T.) — A 30-year-old man from Arriha near Irbid Friday murdered his own sister by stabbing her with a sharp knife, according to a report in Saturday's local press. The report said that the woman, aged 26 and identified only as (M.A.) died instantly and her brother was apprehended by the police. The report did not disclose any reason for the murder.

Mr. Habre received arms from France and Zairean combat troops and fighter jets. His government has accused Libya of involvement in the fighting, a charge denied by Tripoli.

The OAU statement called on Chad's feuding factions "to accept and work for national reconciliation which constitutes the only basis for a just and durable peace in Chad."

The statement said Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam, the current OAU chairman, was empowered by the nine-nation bureau to convene a meeting of the OAU's standing committee on Chad if necessary.

Meanwhile Mr. Habre remained on the battlefield in the eastern front against stranded rebels, the environment in which he as one of the world's veteran guerrilla commanders knows best.

Encouraged by his presence, government forces using advanced weaponry supplied by France have inflicted a string of defeats on Mr. Goukouni's rebels and now control all the populated centres in eastern Chad.

There was speculation here that Mr. Habre would drive home his advantage by chasing the rebels towards their headquarters at Faya-Largeau, 1,000 kilometres north of the capital. In a speech lasting more than two hours, Mr. Strauss fiercely defended the credit deal Saturday.

He argued that the credit did not change basic government policies towards East Germany.

Dr. Ahmad Sharas

Shelling in Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

Correspondents, watching from a central Beirut rooftop, could clearly see artillery fire both from the hills and from suburbs held by the rightist militias.

The Falangist radio said shells were landing on areas as far north as Jounieh, 15 kilometres up the

Mediterranean coast.

The exchanges began between villages in the Shouf mountains, several kilometres southeast of Beirut, at around 8:30 p.m. (1830 GMT). Militias around the capital and surrounding foothills quickly joined in.

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Tripoli protests clashes

(Continued from page 1)

interests of certain Arab regimes," Abu Al Hol said. "They (the Arab regimes) want us to drop the armed struggle," he added.

Abu Al Hol, who arrived in north Lebanon from Syria last week, also accused the rebels of resorting to "terrorism" and "blitzkrieg" to force Palestinians living in refugee camps to join the dissidents.

Iraq has accused Syria and Libya of what a government spokesman described as a "conspiracy against the legitimate leadership of the PLO," which Mr.

Arafat has headed since 1969.

Baghdad Radio said Saturday that Mr. Arafat laid a wreath at a monument in Baghdad to Iraqi war dead and visited a museum which included Iranian weapons captured in the 34-month-old Gulf war between Iraq and Iran.

Later on Saturday, the Iraqi News Agency reported that Mr. Arafat left Baghdad but did not give his destination.

But Palestinian sources said he might go to Kuwait to seek further support for his leadership of the PLO.



Mr. Akram Masarweh

Jordan to host 100 Arab children

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan will play host for 100 children from various Arab states next month at the invitation of Her Majesty Queen Noor. This was announced by Mr. Akram Masarweh from the Youth Welfare Organisation (YWO) which is organising the programme.

He told the Jordan Times that children aged between 10 and 13 from Sudan, Oman, Somalia, Qatar, Tunisia, Bahrain, Algeria, Morocco and Kuwait will be staying in Jordan for 10 days to tour the country's archaeological and tourist sites and get acquainted with the country's culture and progress in various fields.

This is the third time that Jordan implements such programme, the first being in 1980, and is intended to deepen Arab children's faith in their own culture and common goals. Mr. Masarweh said.

He said that Queen Noor believes that "as Arabs we belong to one nation with a common culture and goals and therefore our children ought to have direct access to such concept with the purpose of enhancing their belief in their nation."

We started implementing the Common Arab Culture (CAC) programme in 1980 and the success it achieved then encouraged us to draw up plans for other similar programmes, and we hope that more and more Arab countries will be involved in it in the future. Mr. Masarweh said.

Mr. Masarweh who is director of the (CAC) programme is being assisted in its implementation by

August 15." Mr. Masarweh said. These children, he added, have been selected from various governors so that they can offer a true picture about the country to their colleagues who they will be accompanying throughout the programme.

The visitors will be touring Jordan's museums, Amman Roman Amphitheatre, Jerash, Petra, the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea and the two bridges spanning the River Jordan. Mr. Masarweh explained.

Also on the programme are visits to Al Hussein Youth City, the Ajloun Youth Camp, the Friends of the Children Club, the Bird Garden, Al Ahli Club, Amman and Jordan Television to take part in a competition programme, as well as visits to military posts and the archaeological site at Umm Qais.

According to Mr. Masarweh, the Arab children will be spending a whole day as guests of Jordanian families. Each selected family will host two children including those from the Jordanian group. Mr. Masarweh said.

6,000 trees destroyed by fires during last week

AMMAN (J.T.) — More than 6,000 trees were burnt and 640 dunums of land damaged with fires which broke out in three different places in Jordan during the past week.

A report in Al Ra'i newspaper Saturday said that 6,000 forest trees and 200 olive trees planted on 200 dunums of land in the Jerash area were completely destroyed by fire. A spokesman for the Civil Defence Department said the fire was caused by some people on an outing who made the fire for cooking in the woods.

In the Koura district, a fire broke out on Wednesday in an orchard when someone dropped a cigarette end. As a result 116 fruit trees were burnt and 200 dunums of land were badly damaged by the fire.

Another fire in Nu'simeh, in Irbid Governorate destroyed 240 dunums of land grown with fruit trees.

The spokesman warned citizens against making fire or dropping cigarettes in wooded areas with a view to protecting public property.

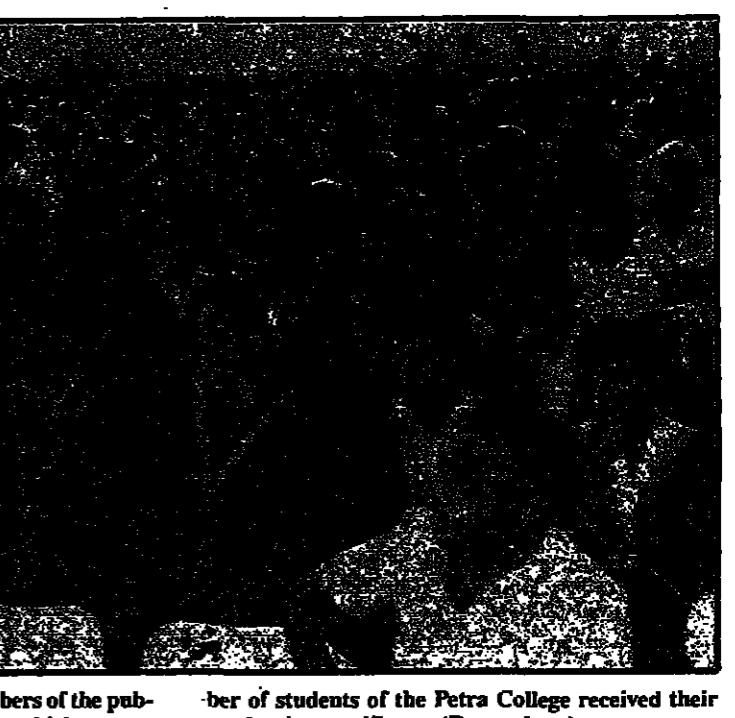
The graduates had completed courses in commerce, secretarial

Petra College students graduate

ZARQA (Petra) — A ceremony for graduating the first class of female students from Petra Community College here was held Saturday under the patronage of Her Highness Princess Basma.

work and other vocations lasting three years each.

At the outset of the ceremony, the chairman of the college's board of trustees made a speech outlining the various stages of the college's development and its programmes which he said are designed to help in implementing



Newly-graduated students and members of the public attend a function Saturday during which a number of students of the Petra College received their graduation certificates (Petra photo)

Jordan to hold biggest annual book exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — A number of Arab and foreign publishing houses have expressed desire to participate in Jordan's annual book exhibition which will be held during the Jerash Festival next month, according to Dr. Ahmad Sharas, director general of the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives (DLDNA).

He said that 50 publishing houses including those from Taiwan, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine, Tunisia and India have sent him letters to

this effect.

Taiwan's National Publishing House wants to participate in the exhibition by displaying and marketing a number of publications and books both in Arabic and English. Dr. Sharas said.

This exhibition is expected to be the biggest of its kind in Jordan's history in terms of its volume and publications that are to be displayed.

Books at the exhibition will be sold at competitive prices. Dr. Sharas said.

Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, interviewed in Damascus, said the Soviet

Union had made clear it opposed Palestinian in-fighting and favoured unity within Fatah and the PLO.

"The Soviets view with bitterness the Palestinian split and regard it as serving imperialist Israeli expansionist schemes in the Middle East directly," he added.

Mr. Hawatmeh visited Moscow last week at the head of a PLO delegation.

Arafat: Postponement of Soviet trip insignificant

(Continued from page 1)

The Kuwait News Agency Saturday quoted another Palestinian leader as saying the Soviet leadership would soon take fresh steps which could help reconcile the differences within Fatah and between Palestinian and Syrian leaders.

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Union had made clear it opposed Palestinian in-fighting and favoured unity within Fatah and the PLO.

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But Palestinian sources

Jordan Times

Responsible Editor: MOHAMMAD AMADE
Editor: GEORGE S. HAWATMEN
Managing Editor: RAMI G. KHOURY

Editorial and advertising offices:
 Jordan Press Foundation,
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 065-320-0000. **Telex:** 5147-AERIAL-1.
Telex: JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan.

The Jordan Times is published daily except Friday.
 Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Bitterness and the PLO

THOSE of us who read Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's interview published in the Jordan Times, Al Ra'i and Sawt Al Shabab newspapers yesterday could not have missed the man's pangs of bitterness about Syrian attempts to control his organisation. But why should he be embittered? Surely, the behaviour of the Syrian regime comes as no big surprise to the PLO chairman; and he knows only too well that in the end these attempts cannot but fail to subdue the Palestinian revolution and its symbols of struggle. Doesn't Arafat himself keep on telling us and the world that his revolution is no picnic, and that, it will win the Palestinians their historical and inalienable rights, regardless of the odds?

Arafat nevertheless has to be seriously concerned about the current situation, if only for the ferocity of the Syrian campaign to discredit and replace the legitimate Palestinian leadership. We need only look at the strange alliance that Damascus has forged with the anti-Arafat rebels in Fatah to realise just how desperate the Assad regime has become in its attempts towards that end.

First, the Syrian-backed political leader of the Fatah mutiny, Nimir Saleh, is supposedly fully committed to step up guerrilla operations against Israeli occupation forces in Lebanon, as elsewhere in Palestine. The last thing the Syrians want is Palestinian attacks against the Israelis originating from behind Syrian lines in the Bekaa.

Second, the rebel leader's avowed militancy drove him to criticise publicly the Soviet stance during the siege of Beirut, even though his pro-Moscow views never failed to surface in Fatah and long before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. If he had the guts to criticise the Soviets for their role — or the lack of it — in the siege of Beirut, what would you expect him to think of Syria's lethargy in Lebanon last summer and even now?

Third, Nimir Saleh presumably is anti-American, but the Syrians are not; he wants no political solution to the Palestine problem, the Syrians admittedly do; furthermore, he was once touted by the Libyans as the alternative to Arafat, just before the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Algiers last February, but the trick did not work and he was defeated by most Palestinians at the time, only to surface again in Damascus recently.

How then, with all these basic contradictions between the Syrians and the Fatah rebels, would you expect an alliance to be forged, had it not been for the common aim of both Saleh and Arafat to get rid of Arafat and his leadership?

We don't. And that is why the PLO chairman and his organisation have to be more concerned than embittered by what is taking place on the Palestinian-Syrian front these days. The confrontation is hardly personal.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: The right way out

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat spoke in an interview with Al Ra'i newspaper about the recent events among PLO groups and Syria and also about the aspirations of the Palestinian fighters. Between these events and the aspirations lies a dark tunnel which the Palestinian revolution hopes to go through — the tunnel which the Palestinians were forced to enter since Israel's invasion of Lebanon in June of 1982.

In the interview, Abu Ammar did not explain how the Palestinian plans to get out of the tunnel, but he admitted that the events in the Bekaa Valley had revealed a lot about different things including Jordan's stand vis à vis this revolution in contrast with other Arab states.

On the relations with Jordan, Abu Ammar said that he would like to express his deep appreciation to Jordan in view of its stand toward the PLO and its keenness to preserve the organisation's independence and freedom.

This stand he said, is only an implementation of Jordan's commitment towards the Palestinian people and part of Jordan's assistance to the Arab population under Israeli rule to enable them to preserve their identity and safeguard their land.

Al Dostour: Aspirations and realities

There cannot be any truly patriotic Arab citizen who does not wish that the sufferings in Lebanon should end after all these years of civil war, invasion and internal strife.

But there is a long way separating aspirations from reality. The recent outbreak of fighting among the Lebanese emphasises an important fact: that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon which Israel and the U.S. had pictured to the world that it is the only means of saving the country — has in fact paved the way for a long and painful stage for Lebanon and a dark future fraught with danger.

Ever since its invasion of Lebanon, Israel has been intent on creating divisions among the Lebanese and exerting all efforts for escalating fighting among their various factions. It has been trying to convince the Lebanese that Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is bound to rekindle the long-standing feuds among the factions and so prolong the sufferings of the people.

If the U.S. really wants to end the sufferings it should work towards ending the occupation of Lebanon and this should help safeguard the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Sawt Al Shabab: Palestinians will struggle

Those who have been trying to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and the PLO and have been trying to steal the Palestinian victory achieved in the battle for Beirut, have indeed bet their money on a losing horse and are building castles in the air.

In his interview with Sawt Al Shabab, PLO leader Yasser Arafat has revealed the truth about a conspiracy hatched by certain Arab regimes against the Palestinian revolution. He also revealed the plots of the Syrian and Libyan regimes to destroy to the PLO's main group, Fatah prior to destroying the whole Palestinian organisation. Abu Ammar also pointed out the main purpose of these plots and revealed that the dissidents were in fact fighting Fatah men with Syrian guns and Libyan tanks.

We believe that the Palestinians and the fighters in Lebanon will continue the struggle and will also foil all the plots being hatched against them by regimes whose weakness and false slogans were laid bare during Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Americans show better understanding of Muslim fasting

SAN FRANCISCO — On Friday night, June 10 according to the Christian reckoning, the Muslim fasting of Ramadan began. Interesting to me as an American was the fact that announcements about Ramadan were carried in American newspapers. They were small reports, usually on the inside pages of newspapers. But they are remarkable because in the past no such announcements would have been carried. The reasons they were are that Islam has become the fourth major religion in the U.S., following Protestantism, Catholicism, and Judaism (reckoned by the number of believers).

No one knows how many muslims there are in the U.S. Cautious estimates give a figure of two million. But some estimates range as high as seven million.

Ramadan still means little to the vast majority of Americans, but the idea of pur-

ification through fasting has come to mean much more in recent years. Americans, until recently, were not a people who indulged in fasting. Protestants were under no religious mandate to fast. Catholics are supposed to refrain from all meat during the 40 days preceding Easter, the date of Christ's resurrection. Jews traditionally fast during their Day of Atonement. But as Americans got more prosperous they also stopped observing even the few rituals of non-eating or eating-less that were left. The Catholic Church made repeated exemptions to the rules of Lent (the fasting period). And many Jews became thoroughly secular. In fact, among many educated Americans religion was something to be ashamed of. It was a kind of superstition. So many intellectuals made a point of eating forbidden foods during high holy days.

But in the last years, Amer-

icans have discovered that food can be an enemy as well as a friend. Many Americans have become very fat. And obesity often leads to life-endangering diseases. Americans are becoming increasingly conscious to an astonishing degree. They eat much less meat than they used to. They exercise more. They jog — one can see astounding numbers of joggers of all ages running even in the downtowns of cities between the vast skyscrapers. And in the process of eating less, many Americans have discovered the value of fasting. As one friend put it, the sense of exhilaration and health that comes from not eating for a few days is remarkable. So many people have begun to try periodic fasting. Fasting has become one aspect of the many-sided health revolution in America.

But I also remember my own experience as a Christian with Ramadan. It was in Afghanistan, during a broiling hot

summer, some 25 years ago. With my Japanese friend and colleague, we rode every day on horseback with two or three local people from village to village. Our Muslim friends, every day, helped pack food and drink for us, but none for themselves. They said: Non-Muslims and travellers, musafir, are exempt from the fast. We then said: But you too are musafir! Why do you not eat and drink? And they always waved their hands and said: No. And they added: We do not want to miss the purification that come from observing the fast. So I watched them ride from early in the summer morning to well into the evening. They ate and drank nothing. And they told me even to swallow spit was a violation of the fast. Then came the "fit," when they ate. Even then I never saw them fill the stomachs swelled. Then came the incredibly joyous Eid-Al-Fitr.

which we celebrated in a town in northern Afghanistan. The night before the mood was somber, very religious. But the Eid itself was a time for incendiary rejoicing.

There is an old Latin saying

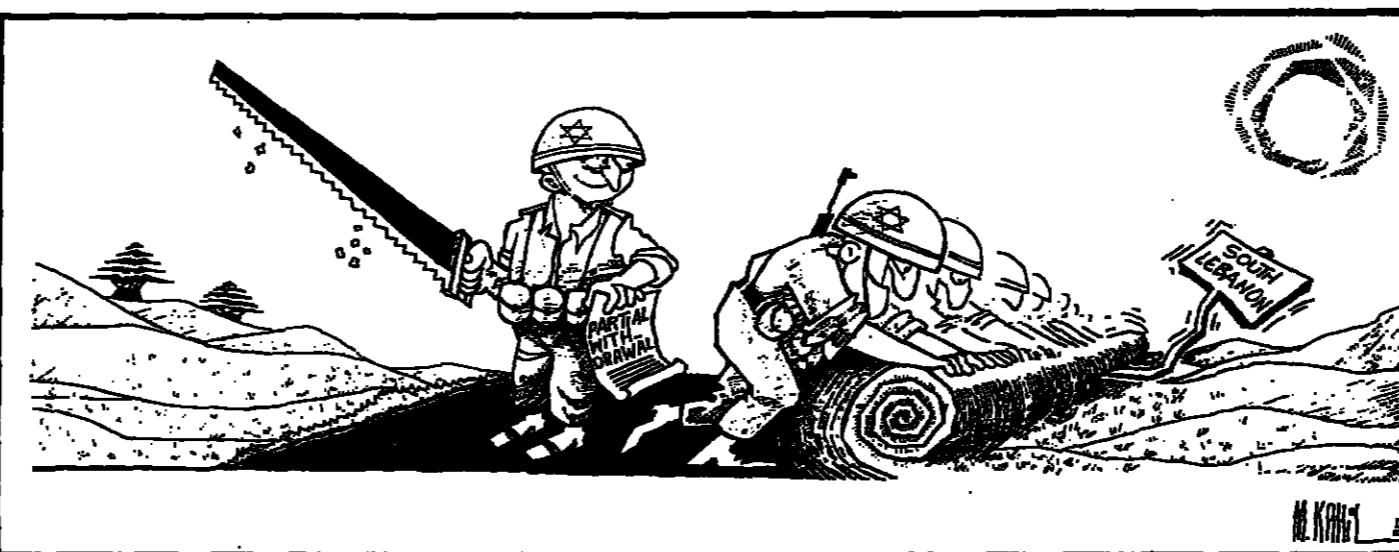
in the Christian world: mens sana in corpore sano, or a healthy mind in a healthy body.

But, as Aristotle already said,

there also is soul beside mind and body. In the U.S. today there is a growing sense that health of mind and body, at least, are inseparable. But the older religions may have seen that health must primarily encompass the soul as well. This is particularly true of Islam with 30 days of fasting from the time at dawn when a white hair can be distinguished from a black and at night when it can-

not be distinguished. When they do not eat, they drink. When they do not drink, they smoke. When they do not smoke, they think. Of eating, drinking, or smoking. Constantly filling the body does not allow the mind to think of higher things. And as a form of self-concern, it closes off the soul which must remain open, like a window allowing fresh air to come in.

In Islam, the joy of the Eid-Al-Fitr symbolises the social pleasures of friends and kin eating together. We in America have more and more of that now. Yet only a few years ago it was common for people to eat alone. In fact, stand-up food bars were common in many cities. But there also are beginnings of awareness that there is a time for non-eating as well. We think of it still in health terms. But it is quite possible that many Americans will discover the spiritual qualities in fasting just as Muslims have known it for 1,400 years.



Pretoria continues aggression against S. African countries

By Rodney Pinder
 Reuter

MAPUTO — Black southern African leaders say their region, one of the world's poorest, is fighting for survival against an undeclared war by South Africa.

But they fear their cries for international help to combat what they see as implacable South African hostility are increasingly in vain.

The nine members of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) have had considerable success in attracting investment funds from industrialised nations.

But they detect little response to their appeals that these same investors bring a moderating influence to bear on the white-ruled republic.

The nine — Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland, Tanzania and Botswana — fear their organisation, set up in 1980 to reduce dependence on South Africa, could be destroyed if the security pressures on Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho.

To back their case, the nine members cite attacks on ports, roads and railways and Mozambique by rebels said to be sponsored by Pretoria. South African raids in Angola, alleged South African encouragement for unrest in Zimbabwe, and political and military pressures on Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho.

The leaders at the SADCC's one-day summit called on their international aid donors for help, commenting that their major benefactors also had considerable investments in South Africa.

A communiqué said Pretoria acted with impunity. "South Africa can invade and occupy sovereign states, blow up vital installations, massacre populations at no apparent cost to its relations with its main allies," it said.

The nine accuse South Africa of fighting a covert war against its black neighbours to keep them economically dependent, to show that black rule does not work and

to set up a cordon sanitaire around its frontiers while it crushes internal black dissent.

Pretoria denies the charge, saying it strikes into neighbouring countries like Lesotho, Mozambique and Angola against black nationalist guerrilla bases. It says the nine are victims of their own disorders and inefficiency.

In its three years of existence, the SADCC has made solid progress, notably in transport and communications, with the help of big investments from the industrial world.

But its overall view is one of increasing gloom as members grapple with what the grouping calls "continuing and deepening economic and security problems."

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The report said there was a real danger of international conflict and of domestic social and political unrest arising from the pre-

sumes on the region's 60 million people, already ranked among the world's poorest.

Reporting progress on development projects, the paper said work was continuing to achieve regional food security, to control animal diseases, to conserve oil and water and to develop fisheries.

In transport and communications, one-quarter of the estimated \$2.6 billion required to modernise ports, railways, roads and other facilities over the next decade had been allocated or committed by donor nations.

Potential donors had been identified for 74 out of 90 industrial projects throughout the nine member states, and funding would be discussed at talks with industrial nations in Lusaka next November, the report said.

It said the SADCC had developed into a significant regional organisation in its three years of existence.

President Samora Machel of Mozambique told the summit the SADCC was not created to interfere with the internal affairs of South Africa.

But Pretoria had responded to it with "the most gross violation of the basic rules of coexistence between sovereign states," he said.

SADCC members wanted to turn southern Africa into a "zone of peace, progress and well-being," Mr. President Machel said.

"We refuse to depend politically or economically on South Africa, as on any other country. We refuse to give in to blackmail."

The ready acceptance of the terms amounted to a vote of confidence from the international banking community in Chad's policies.

Algeria has always been very reticent when it comes to publishing debt figures, but reasonably accurate estimates suggest that foreign borrowing not been halted in 1979 the country today would be travelling the same road to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as so many other Third World countries.

The total foreign debt rose to \$24 billion in 1980, \$15 billion of which was drawn down. Total debt is now estimated to have declined to about \$20 billion, of which perhaps \$17 billion is drawn.

This year marks the peak repayment year on the large sums borrowed in the 1970s. Some \$4.3 billion will have to be repaid — a figure which could drive the debt-service ratio as a percentage of exports to 37 per cent if the country's hard currency income declines to \$11.5 billion. Thereafter repayments decline to \$2.8 billion in 1986.

Algeria continues to cut its coat according to its cloth, and not just where foreign borrowing is concerned. Instructions to slow down certain imports, notably in the consumer goods sector, were issued last summer, and total imports

Pro-Somoza Jews play back anti-Semitism

By Walker Simon
 Reuter

MANAGUA — In Nicaragua's only synagogue, scrolls of the Torah have been replaced by portraits of Sandinista leaders and stacks of Soviet-donated school supplies.

The building, seized four years ago by the Sandinistas, has been converted into the headquarters of the National Children's Association.

It concealed past stands as a symbol of what Jews say was the suppression of their community following the 1979 overthrow of dictator Anastasio Somoza.

The charges of repression have surfaced in the U.S. Congress and could play a role in determining U.S.-Nicaraguan relations.

Jewish exiles accuse the Sandinistas of an anti-Semitic crusade to seize most of the assets of over 15 million dollars, triggering the exodus of all but two of the 20 Jewish families here.

Their wealth was a visible target

tried to return have faced discrimination.

The officials do not dispute the wide-ranging takeovers, but say the confiscations were not driven by anti-Semitism.

"We are not anti-semites, only anti-Zionists," Tourism Minister Herta Lewites told Reuters.

Mr. Lewites, whose father was Jewish and mother Catholic, said the Sandinistas exercised no discrimination against him.

He said Education Minister Carlos Tunnerman and Telecommunications Minister Enrique Schmidt, both half-Jewish, also suffered no harassment.

The presence of Jewish descendants in the cabinet even prompted Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto last month to quip to reporters: "It would seem you have to have Jewish blood to qualify for a cabinet post."

D'Escoto said the great majority of Jews "left the country because of their ties to Somoza and because surely their con-

sciences weighed heavily on them."

Mr. Lewites said the Sandinista takeovers were justified because the Jews had business links with Somoza.

Pressed for details, he said three Jewish families owned a racetrack, gambling casino and baseball team together with Somoza.

Exiles, who deny such business links, say that even if they had existed they would fail to justify the sweeping Sandinista confiscation of virtually all the 20 families' property.

They remain convinced of deep-seated anti-Semitism, saying that the trio of half-Jewish ministers were never practising Jews closely associated with their community.

The ultimate proof of prejudice, they say, was that the Sandinista guerrillas unsuccessfully tried to burn their synagogue in a Sabbath raid as Jews prayed inside a few months before Somoza's overthrow.

ingesting. When they do not eat, they drink. When they do not drink, they smoke. When they do not smoke, they think.

Constantly filling the body does not allow the mind to think of higher things. And as a form of self-concern, it closes off the soul which must remain open, like a window allowing fresh air to come in.

In Islam, the joy of the Eid-

Research is of vital importance to us



Talking straight
Marwan Muasher

If any one thing is to characterise the twentieth century, it is the great boom that took place in technology. Never before has man amassed so much knowledge in so little time. Never before has he been affected so much by this technology he created. And never before has the importance of technology to the human race been so clearly spelled out.

But what is the basis of technology? What keeps it ticking? What advances it and opens new arenas for it? If we are to pinpoint one main factor that is the driving force behind creating, maintaining, and advancing technology, the obvious answer would be research. For without research there is no technology.

Research can be divided into two main fields: Basic and applied. Basic research is that which is usually done for the sake of advancing knowledge. It is mostly theoretical in nature, and it serves to advance the state-of-the-art, to push forward the frontiers of knowledge in a particular field. It might or might not have an immediate or obvious practical application, but is conducted anyway to gain more insight into a certain problem so that when a practical application is sought, it has the

necessary fundamentals laid out for it. It often induces applications rather than come as the result of a response to applications.

Applied research on the other hand is that which is concerned with applying the available technology to solve a particular problem at hand. It makes use of the results obtained from basic research, and while it sometimes produces new theoretical results, it usually is of an empirical nature. It does not usually produce new results of a basic nature, but rather molds the existing ones to solve particular problems.

Both kinds of research, basic and applied, also very crudely classified as theoretical and experimental, are very important. They also are interrelated. Many times, basic theoretical research leads to results that can be employed by applied experimental research. Applied research often leads to problems unthought of hitherto that need further basic research of a theoretical nature to understand the phenomena observed in applied research. In short, both kinds of research supplement each other.

Traditionally, there have been two main centres for conducting research. The leadership in con-

ducting basic research has been more or less assumed by universities, and that of applied research by companies, although that does not mean that each centre is able of conducting only one type of research. A university in developed countries is not only a place where knowledge is passed, but also one where it is created. Thus, it is not enough for professors there to teach younger generations, but it is their ongoing duty to also keep learning themselves, and advancing knowledge in their own fields.

On the other hand, companies there also realise the importance of research to keep upgrading their products, to the point where the idea of a relatively sized company without a research and development department is absurd. Moreover, these two centres realise the importance of cooperation between themselves, and consequently there is a lot of joint programmes and constant feedback between academia and industry.

The importance of research to a country cannot be overstated. A country cannot hope to make the transition from a technology using to a technology producing nation without systematically supporting

and conducting research. And that transition is vital, for without it, it will mean almost total dependence on other nations. But what makes a country technology producing? Why are the Americans, Japanese or Germans, for example, leaders in this regard?

The argument of a country having better "brains" than other countries is no longer valid. No nation is genetically superior to other nations. This is a fact. What, then is the reason? Very simply, it is the system. If a country builds a system where the importance of research is realised, then that system will be able to make full use of the "brains" of its citizens.

The Americans are a case in point. Historically, their country has been built from people immigrating to the new world, looking for a fresh start. Thus, a sense of hard work, later developed to competitiveness, has evolved there to become a part of their life-style. The concept of competitiveness is essential in the American value system, where one is constantly taught to strive to achieve his very best in his field of interest. Actually, this sometimes backfires, resulting in people that

are experts in their fields but know little about many other things in life.

At any rate, that is why America attracted so many people from over the world, who found it in a place where their talents are allowed to freely develop in a healthy research environment. A system has been built, not only of institutions and organisations but also one that is embedded in the culture, that accepts, supports and encourages research.

The point that I am making here is not to necessarily imitate the American life-style, only to realise the importance of building a system of values and of organisations that is conducive to research.

We have already started to do so, although our universities and research centres are still in their infancy. There are a lot of mistakes that are being, and will be made along the way, but that is to be expected. We cannot expect to conduct research systematically with outstanding results overnight. I think the point not to be lost sight of here is to remember that our main objective at this point is to lay the basis for a system so that the next generation can find firm grounds to stand on and has the proper environment to

actually start producing systematically. What we should avoid is to treat our research institutions as showcases, being too eager to show the world that we are good enough, and thus playing to short-term objectives instead of long term policies. We also should realise the importance of both kinds of research, and not concentrate only on applied research which again might serve our short term objectives, but which alone does little to lay the necessary theoretical grounds for a stable and solid research programme.

I realise we have a lot of priorities, and that research might not fare highly among them. But it is certainly no luxury. It is a real need for us, one that will pay off tremendously in the future.

A lot of talk has been said about the human factor being Jordan's most valuable asset. This is more than just an emotional appeal or wishful bragging. For better or worse, the human resource is almost all we have, given the absence of any major natural resources in the country. As such, we have to, for we cannot afford not to, constantly upgrade the quality of our human factor. A policy where research fares highly does exactly that. We only have to look at the

Japanese as a living testimony that such a policy does pay off.

Since the government cannot direct much money (an element, unfortunately, that is essential to research) towards research programmes, that money has to come from the private sector. The private sector and companies of this country should realise the importance and advantages that research programmes can bring to them and the country. But more than that, I think the privileged, the rich of this country, should play a larger role in its development. They have had the chance to better education and better life. They have been more exposed to the world and have rich experiences to share. It is their moral obligation, therefore, to reach out and contribute towards a better society. I think this is an excellent chance to do so, where private companies can cooperate with universities and other research organisations to initiate research programmes and accelerate the rate at which we are going. We might not reap, nor should we expect to, substantial benefits in the short run, but (without sounding too dramatic), we would have laid the grounds for our children who will.

Can biotechnology help the Third World?

By John Elkington

LONDON — "This vaccine could radically alter the economies of several South American countries. It could improve their position in the world export of meat and meat products. Certainly it will increase world food supplies", said a U.S. scientist.

The speaker was Dr. Dennis Kleid, a microbiologist with Genentech Inc., the leading U.S. genetic engineering company. He was talking about the company's new vaccine against foot and mouth disease, produced with "recombinant DNA" technology, which rearranges microbes' genetic material to create new man-made life forms.

Optimistic forecasts about the potential of products manufactured using this and related biotechnology techniques, all virtually unknown a decade ago, have proliferated almost as fast as bacteria in a laboratory fermenter. Many of those forecasts are about economic opportunities for developing countries.

"Biotechnology, perhaps more than any other area of advanced applied science, offers solutions to the old problems which continue to hold many countries in the dark ages", says Dr. Burke Zimmerman of Cetus Corporation, one of Genentech's chief rivals. These problems include disease, malnutrition, over-population and the high cost and political vulnerability of energy imports.

"Unfortunately", Dr. Zimmerman concludes, "the benefits of biotechnology will remain primarily in the province of the economically advanced countries of the world, unless a workable means is found to bring it to the developing nations".

Well over \$800 million had been invested in the new U.S. biotechnology companies by the end of 1982. Some 61 per cent of this

has gone into health care research, compared with 23 per cent for agricultural applications. Animal and human health care products of recombinant DNA technology are already on the market in some countries -- and others are getting there faster than most analysts expected.

But diseases which are commercially interesting in the North -- diabetes, coronary thrombosis or even dwarfism -- are not key problems in the developing world. True, companies like Biogen and Genentech are working on vaccines against tropical diseases like malaria, but they are extremely sensitive about patenting their technology and thus about sharing it with others.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), which is working on several tropical disease vaccines, had helped fund research on anti-malarial vaccines at New York University. Genentech was asked to help with production processes from the laboratory bench to full-scale commercial plants. The company sought in return an exclusive licence to market the vaccine, and WHO refused. Genentech had pulled out of the project. Yet WHO and other international organisations, badly need the experience and patented technology of such companies.

As for agriculture, biotechnologists are increasingly convinced that they can improve crop plants by endowing them with resistance to herbicides, insects, salt water, drought, cold, viruses and other environmental challenges.

But warns Mr. David Padwa of Agrigenetics Corporation, "manipulating bacteria is child's play compared to the genetic manipulation of plants". Less is known about plants. For each gene in a bacterium, plant may have tho-

usands, so products in this field will take longer to develop. The International Plant Research Institute formed two joint ventures with the Malaysian plantation group Sime Darby, to genetically improve crops such as cassava, the date palm, rice and rubber. Both ventures promptly ran into major cash-flow problems.

Unilever has used genetic engineering methods successfully to boost yields from oil palms and has moved on to the coconut palm.

But trying to transfer biotechnology on company-owned plantations is one thing; getting its benefits to Third World farmers quite another.

Say one wanted to transfer technology for producing nitrogen-fixing micro-organisms, which could help farmers but their fertiliser bills: Papua New Guinea lacks the necessary technology and academic support; Zimbabwe has too few trained specialists; and even Nigeria poses problems, as the key fermentation processes are highly vulnerable to the sort of power-cuts endemic there.

Yet some developing countries are already losing export income through biotechnologies. A major blow to sugar producing countries came recently with the announcement by Coca Cola and Pepsico Cola that they planned to use less sugar and more high fructose corn (maize) syrup, produced in the United States using an enzyme-assisted process.

New "intense sweeteners", such as thaumatin, are either already on the market or under development. Thaumatin is 2,500 times as sweet as sucrose and is a flavour-enhancer into the bargain. The original material came from a wild West African fruit, but thaumatin is now produced by bacteria.

Organisations such as Britain's Institute of Biotechnological Stu-

dies and Japan's International Centre for Cooperative Research and Training in Microbiological Engineering are helping developing countries build up their own biotechnological resources. They will also benefit from the new networks being developed by international organisations like the International Cell Research Organisation, the U.N. Environment Programme and UNEP.

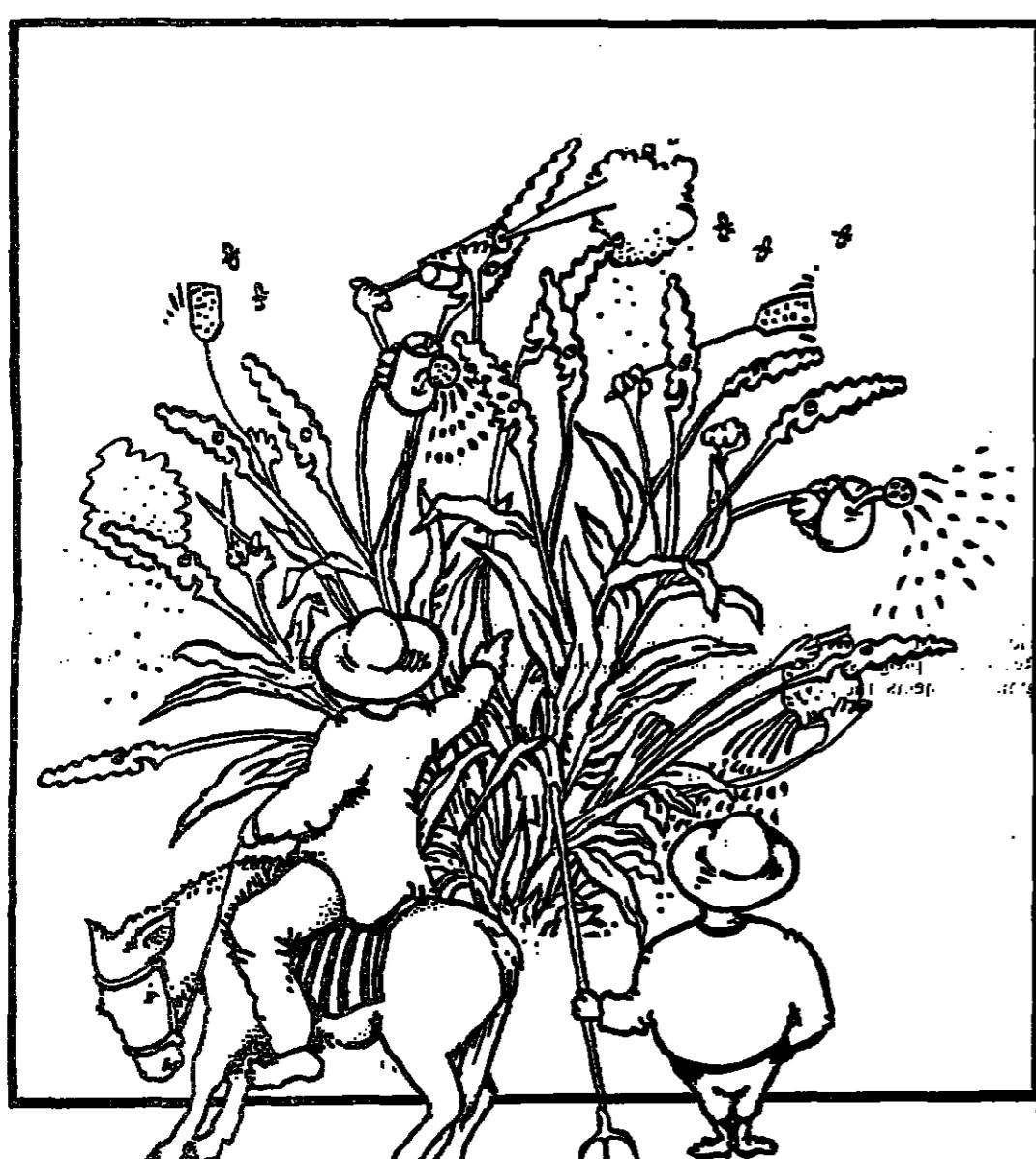
But these will not achieve the scale of technology transfer needed. An International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology is proposed by the U.N. Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). This would have a staff of at least 100, involve capital costs of \$15 million (the buildings being donated by the host country) and need a minimum annual budget of \$8.6 million.

Yet something of the sort is needed, if biotechnology is to benefit the Third World rather than make it even more technologically and economically dependent upon the developed nations.

-- Earthscan feature

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Unfortunately it needs a monthly service by a man from New York." (Earthscan)

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SPORTS

Prost romps to British Grand Prix triumph

SILVERSTONE, England (R) — Alain Prost of France overcame an early challenge by Ferrari pair Patrick Tambay and Rene Arnoux and sped to the simplest of successes in the sun-soaked British Grand Prix motor race here on Saturday.

Renault driver Prost was never troubled once he passed his two compatriots and finished comfortably clear of the Brabham or Nelson Piquet in second place.

Tambay was third in his brand new Ferrari while Britain's Nigel Mansell overcame numerous pre-race electrical problems with his Lotus and finished a deserved fourth.

Arnoux was fifth and Austrian Niki Lauda led home the first of the non-turbocharged cars with sixth place in his McLaren.

Arroyo gives Spain first Tour de France win in 5 years

CLERMONT FERRAND, France (R) — Angel Arroyo gave Spain their first Tour de France stage win since 1978 on Saturday when he won the 15.6 kilometre time trial from Clermont Ferrand to the top of the extinct Puy de Dome volcano.

Arroyo, 28, came home in 40 minutes 43 seconds, 13 seconds ahead of compatriot, Pedro Delgado. Patrocinio Jimenez came third 16 seconds further back to give the Colombian amateur team their best placing of the tour.

The eyes of France were on their injured tour hero Pascal Simon, riding with his fractured

shoulder heavily strapped. He forecast before the start that he would lose the tour lead Saturday but in the event he remained 52 seconds clear of compatriot Laurent Fignon.

More than three minutes of Simon's lead were wiped out as he struggled on the vicious slopes of the 1.115-metre climb. He finished five minutes 10 seconds behind Arroyo.

The Spaniard jumped from 11th to fifth overall and is now four minutes 24 seconds behind Simon. And with more mountain stages ahead the pressure is growing on the Frenchman's team to

protect his diminishing advantage. Jimenez's performance regained him the mountain leader's jersey which he had lost to Britain's Robert Millar on Thursday.

He also gave the Colombians satisfaction after the events of that day when a riders' go-slow over doping regulations hit Jimenez's defence of the jersey.

Each time he tried to attack on a climb where points could be scored he was warned by Gilbert Duclos-Lassalle, the French professionals' spokesman, not to attempt anything because of the protest.

As a result he missed valuable

points and Colombians demanded an official protest by their national cycling federation. But Colombian official Hector Urrego, although clearly unhappy, said there was no complaint.

The Colombians, down to five of their original 10 men, now have Jimenez in the top 20 as the cyclists face more mountains on Sunday in the 144-kilometre race

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PAY US A VISIT



Jordanian swimmers meet visiting American team

By Reem Habayeb
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The atmosphere around the pool at the Hussein Sport City was filled with excitement last Tuesday. It was the first time a foreign swimming team was in Jordan to compete with a local team. The visitors were the swimming team of American residents in Saudi Arabia.

The competition that was organized by the Jordanian Swimming Federation and Alia, was held under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid.

With 48 Jordanian participants and 27 Americans, the competitors gave formidable performances on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings in front of more than 1,000 spectators.

The Jordanian team won gold medals in 25 percent of the races, which meant that they did fairly

well considering the disparity in the organization and training between the two teams.

The obvious obstacles for the Jordanian team were that very few of them knew or were trained to do the proper flip turn when reaching one end of the pool, which saves a few seconds in the race, and the other was that none of them were wearing swimming hats, which helps put the hair out of the way.

Amongst the Jordanian team, those who gave commendable performances were Luna Dallal and Amer Wazani in the races for age group 10 and below. Ages 10-12 were Alia Zidmot and Ramzi Safadi. Ages between 12-14, Mouna Abdel Hamid, Imad Wazani, Ali Wazani and Rased Dallal. Between the ages of 14-16 Yana Shokom, Ihab Qasab, and Lousay Al Khatib. And ages 16 and above were May Bdour and Lotfi Jarrar.

Poll reveals split over South African sporting boycott

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A newspaper opinion poll has revealed a fascinating variety of opinions among South African blacks on whether their country should be shunned by the sporting world because of its apartheid (racial separation) policies.

However, Olympic ties will exclude players who earn their living from football and South American and European players if they have previously played in World Cup games, either in preliminaries or in the finals.

It will also exclude footballers who, according to the IOC, have broken rules of "fair play", especially if they have been involved in drug taking or used violence on the pitch.

The agreement still has to be officially ratified by both organizations.

Racial Olympic Committee, and Hassan Howa, former president of the South African Council of Sport, whose phrase "no normal sport in an abnormal society" has become a banner for the anti-apartheid sports movement.

Among those calling for a return to the world arena were Daniel Craven, South Africa's outspoken "Mr. Rugby", and Errol Tobias, the first non-white rugby player to wear the Springbok colours.

In the end a majority—57 per cent of those writing in said South Africa should be isolated from world sport until apartheid is abolished.

But it was the sentiments expressed in letters written by City Press readers that revealed more than the voting figures. As the paper admitted it obtained the votes only of those committed enough to write in, while the total number of replies—553—might not be considered large enough to give a true reflection of opinion.

More than 200 voters wrote letters with their ballot papers. For or against the boycott, they revealed a bitterness and anger against apartheid which the voteless

black population can find difficult to express legally.

Comments from those favouring the boycott included:

—It is better to suffer now than to suffer forever.

—Let the world practise sports apartheid against South Africa, because the whites practise apartheid against us.

—How would it be if Ace Muni (a local soccer star) were arrested for a pass offence on the eve of his departure for the World Cup?

Those wishing South Africa to be readmitted to the sports world focused on the way the boycott had spoiled the careers of black sportsmen:

—Why should we deny our black brothers the chance to prove themselves as world-class sportsmen?

—Let our black brothers be allowed to play overseas... when they return, they'll launch a thousand Peles.

All the letters appeared to disprove the view touted by many politicians and sports administrators overseas that "sport and politics don't mix."

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ECONOMY

U.S. economy improves

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. economy continues to improve briskly, despite a rise in prices last month, according to two government reports released Friday.

The Federal Reserve Board said industrial production rose by 1.1 per cent last month, the seventh successive monthly increase in factory output.

U.S. factories have been steadily boosting production since last November and have already made up about half the production stalled by recession.

Wholesale prices, which normally anticipate consumer price inflation by two to three months, rose by 0.5 per cent in June, the Labour Department said, though wholesale costs still declined at a one per cent annual rate in the first half of this year.

Last month's increase in whole-

sale prices was the biggest since last November, the department added.

A spokesman for President Reagan quickly hailed both reports as "a winning combination" that showed the recovery was now established on a broad front.

"Production is up and inflation remains under control," said White House Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes.

The fall in wholesale costs during the first half of 1983 virtually guarantees a low inflation rate for the year as a whole.

White House economists project inflation will be within the four to five per cent range for several years, far below the double-digit rates that ravaged the country from 1979 to 1981.

The latest official figures, released in May, showed U.S. con-

sumer price inflation running at an annual rate of 3.5 per cent.

The economists expect the economy to show increasing vigour this year, expanding by 3.5 per cent between the final quarters of 1982 and 1983.

The rise in June wholesale prices was widely expected.

As anticipated, higher energy prices were mostly responsible for the advance. Petrol and home heating oil prices each jumped by more than five per cent last month.

Had the price gains recorded for energy products not been considered, overall wholesale prices would have risen only 0.1 per cent in June. Wholesale food costs fell by 0.6 per cent last month, reflecting sharp drops in fish, pork and egg prices.

Brazil wins time on BIS debt repayment

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Brazil, the world's largest debtor, will sign a financing agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday safe in the knowledge it has won breathing space on a separate loan it has failed to repay to central banks.

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS), based here, said Friday it would not formally extend a \$400 million bridging credit for Brazil, which has outstanding foreign loans totalling some \$90 billion.

But the BIS, which groups major world central banks, took into account the progress Brazil had made in assuring new funds from the IMF and said it would not for the time being call upon central banks to meet the repayment as guarantors.

Bankers have interpreted this as meaning that the BIS has in fact extended the loan, despite a warning from BIS President Fritz Leutwiler there would be no further rollover beyond Friday's payment deadline.

The loan had already been rolled over twice, after it was originally due for repayment at the end of May.

Brazil had asked for a third extension and told the BIS it was unable to pay the \$400 million part of a \$1.45 billion deal arranged by central banks last year.

The BIS said in a communiqué from its Basle headquarters it looked forward to resumption of IMF financing to Brazil which would facilitate the repayment of the bridging loan.

Brazil said on Thursday that after several days of tense nego-

cations it had struck an agreement with the IMF for the release of a \$411 million second instalment of a three year \$4.9 billion loan.

This second instalment was held up because Brazil had not met IMF demands on government economies, but the new deal is now due to be signed on Monday following the announcement of austerity measures including some de-indexing of wages from the cost of living to reduce inflation.

Meanwhile, support appeared to be growing Saturday for a national strike in Brazil next week to protest against economic measures imposed by the government in its efforts to cope with the world's largest debt.

The government action prompted several union leaders who were initially dubious about the strike call to give it their endorsement.

The government must face the crisis in the absence of President Joao Figueiredo, who underwent a heart operation Friday night in Cleveland, Ohio. A spokesman there said the operation was completely successful but the president would have to spend up to a month recuperating.

Before handing over temporarily to Vice-President Aurielino Chaves on Thursday, General Figueiredo announced that from next month inflation-linked pay increases could only compensate for 80 per cent of the current inflation rate of more than 125 per cent a year.

Finance Minister Ernesto Galvao told reporters Friday night that a new letter of intent with the

IMF would be drawn up and signed next Monday or Tuesday.

But the measure equally gave a boost to a campaign by a group of 137 trade unions for a national protest strike next Thursday.

Labour Minister Mário Macedo flew to São Paulo, Brazil's main industrial centre, to try to defuse the protest but was immediately snubbed by several normally moderate trade union leaders.

Only two of them turned up for a meeting with him and they gave him a letter from the group saying the wages cut meant talks had lost all meaning.

"I told them it was time for all of us to unite and give the economic authorities the biggest possible vote of confidence," Mr. Macedo told a television reporter.

"I believe a general strike now could compromise Brazil's image abroad."

The unionists boycotting the meeting included Mr. Joaquim Dos Santos Andrade, head of the São Paulo metalworkers' union who represents about 400,000 workers.

In other parts of Brazil, union leaders also expressed support for the strike protest.

The wages cut also brought criticism from some business leaders who said the subsequent drop in consumer spending would increase bankruptcies and unemployment.

Mr. Ermílio De Moraes, head of major trading group, told reporters the government should compensate the poor by helping with their electricity and water bills.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JULY 17, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until 2 P.M. it is difficult to get the good will and the assistance of an associate who means a great deal to you so don't force issues. Gain others' respect.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan a little time to help an associate with some problematical affair early, then you can do some entertaining.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) There may be some delay in showing gratitude to one who has done you a big favor but later you come to a far better understanding.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Something comes up that prevents you from having fun, but be patient and later you can take care of a monetary matter.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Avoid a family squabble all will be peaches and cream. Relax at home.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) You find it difficult to understand some philosophy, but upon analyzing it, it later becomes clear to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If you cut down on expenses you can get out of that feeling of lack and build a reserve. Enjoy the company of a friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You find it difficult to get organized. Spend some time analyzing your problems systematically.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A secret worry could find you annoyed, but as soon as that is cleared up, you can look into some new interest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Do not expect a friend to go along with your ideas in the morning so await the afternoon. Spend time with a loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) One in power needs to be carefully handled in the morning, but later a partner comes thru with a fine favor.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) That new idea you have is not workable, so schedule your coming week's activities accordingly. Allies are reliable now.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Some responsibility you have to meet could have you going in circles, but it is soon done. Accept invitations.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY . . . he or she will learn many a lesson during childhood because of the great patience in this nature and also wanting to see a thing through to its conclusion. These qualities can come in very handy upon reaching maturity.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

Zia to seek more Japanese aid

ISLAMABAD (R) — President Zia Ul Haq of Pakistan left Saturday for a six-day state visit to Japan which Pakistani officials said would focus on increased economic aid and cooperation.

General Zia was to make what the officials called a refuelling stopover for Saturday night at Shanghai, China's largest city, before going on to Tokyo Sunday.

His visit will include an audience with Emperor Hirohito and two rounds of talks with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Japan is one of Pakistan's leading trading partners and has inc-

reased its economic aid to Islamabad since the Soviet military intervention in neighbouring Afghanistan at the end of 1979.

Japanese aid to Pakistan was doubled to \$132 million in 1980 and totalled more than \$150 million during the fiscal year that ended last June 30.

The amount is expected to increase during the 1983-84 fiscal year, the Pakistani officials said.

The officials said Gen. Zia might discuss the possibility of Japan making a long-term aid commitment instead of a year-to-year allocation, to help Pakistan meet targets set in its new

United States defends IMF, World Bank, BIS

GENEVA (R) — The United States defended institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Friday and said it was not necessary to restructure the world financial system to cope with the current Third World debt crisis.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc), Mr. José Sorzano, attacked calls for a remodeling of the international financial system as "proposals which could have devastating effects on the world economy, particularly the economies of developing countries which are heavily dependent on access to foreign capital."

Concern over the current crisis was real and justified, he said but "we face today what is overwhelmingly, though not entirely, a short-term liquidity problem."

"The existing financial mechanisms, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Bank for International Settlements and the commercial banking structure, are proving themselves capable of dealing with the problem and have skillfully averted disaster," the ambassador said.

They were not rigid and inflexible institutions, as some people claimed, he added, but were imaginative, innovative and aware of problems.

The ambassador said indications had multiplied that the U.S. economy was experiencing a strong recovery and "without minimising the gravity of the situation or the difficulties still to be overcome, it should be noted that there are signs pointing to an amelioration of the debt crisis."



Malaysia attracts new investors

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia, pressing rapidly ahead with development despite the world recession, has attracted a wave of interest from new foreign investors.

Japan, the country's most important investor and trading partner, now faces stiff competition from Western states seeking to cash in on a drive by Malaysia to join the ranks of industrialised nations by the end of the decade.

France and Canada, in particular, have begun to make gains by offering competitive credit financing.

Interest from Paris and Ottawa has in turn spurred Malaysia's other main trading partners—the United States, West Germany and Britain—to send a stream of trade and investment missions.

Fully aware of the country's investment potential, Malaysian officials have made it clear that both favourable financing and advanced technology and skills are needed.

The Malaysian economy, though hit by recession, has main-

tained its enviable position as both an oil exporter and the leading producer of tin, rubber, palm oil and tropical hardwoods.

Malaysia has shelved some projects in its 1981-85 economic development plan but a senior official recently said there would be no radical cuts in the \$19.5 billion budget for the plan.

Canada stepped up its interest in Malaysia with the visit in January of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who led a delegation of industrialists and businessmen.

This was followed in May by International Trade Minister Gerald Regan.

He offered competitive financing and Canadian technology in telecommunications, power and resource development.

France also plans further missions in the wake of Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy's visit late last year.

The French have offered new credit facilities to Malaysia.

Renewed French interest could have stemmed from what they saw as a vacuum created by Kuala

Lumpur's restrictive trade policy introduced against Britain in 1981.

Ironically, the policy provoked Malaysia's former colonial power greater activity and last year British exports exceeded those of 1981.

British investments in 1982 ranked second only to Japan's.

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad lifted the restrictions against the British earlier this year.

New French credits helped one company, Merlin Gerin, win a \$10 million ringgit (\$13 million) contract to supply equipment for initial development of a power station in the northeastern state of Trengganu.

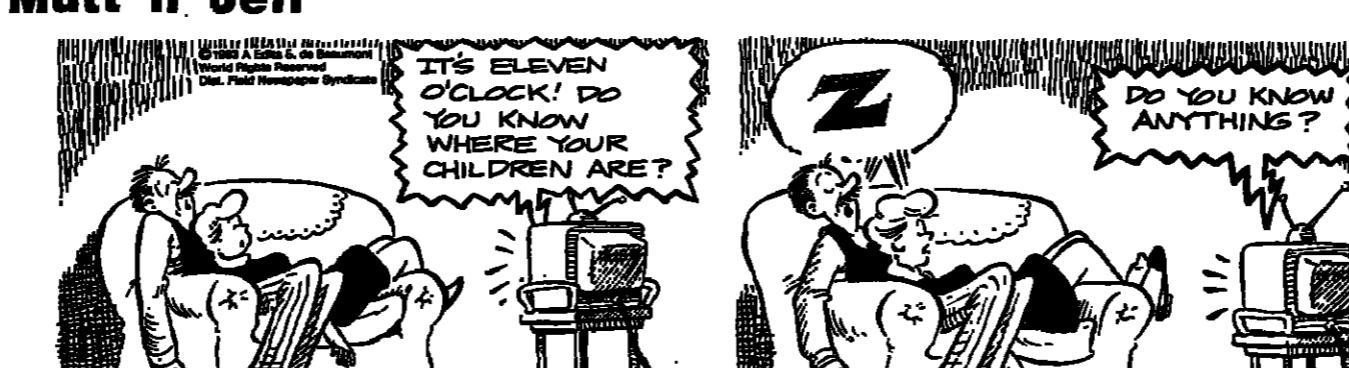
Officials said Malaysia's image as a viable investment centre in Southeast Asia had not been affected by government forecasts of lower growth rates compared to earlier highs of nearly nine per cent in 1979.

"Four to five per cent growth rates are still very high and envied by Western nations, many of whose economies have slumped to one per cent or even less," one foreign trade official said.

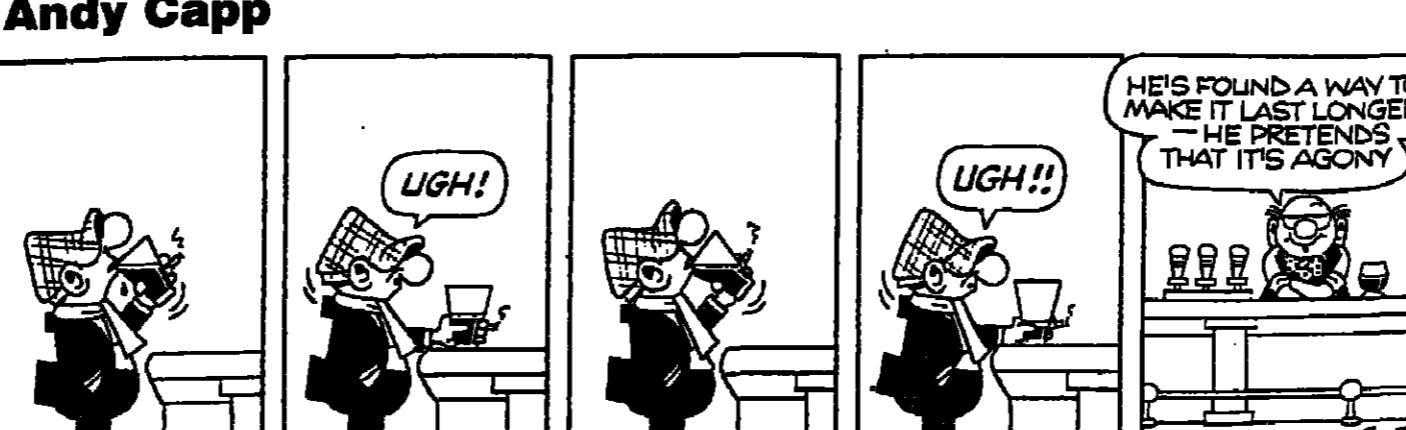
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword

by Fran Ragus

ACROSS	26	Bishop's diocese	48	Steep flax	11	Musical instruments	
1	River in Spain	27	Antediluvian	49	Metal refuse	12	Looking-glass girl
5	Coxcomb	30	Salvador	50	South seas	13	French income
9	Serving as a guide	32	Flatboat	52	Chants in a singsong	21	African river
14	To shelter	33	Item for descent	55	Make jubilant	22	Wings
15	Zones	37	Others: Lat.	56	Gladly, old style	25	Bedouin robes
16	Seed	38	Move	58	Smoothly	27	Strong wind
17	Horse color	39	Huron's neighbor	59	School subject	28	Emerald Isle
18	Low or reverse	40	Admit				

WORLD

U.S. to sell more arms to Taiwan

PEKING (R) — The announcement by the Reagan administration of its largest-ever arms sale to Taiwan is unlikely to result in a sharp deterioration in relations with China, diplomats said Saturday.

The deal would not have come as a surprise to the Peking government as the United States announced in March plans to sell a total of \$100 million worth of weapons this year to the Nationalist-ruled island. They added.

The diplomats said the Chinese reaction to the March announcement was relatively mild. They noted that although Peking complained that the plans violated a U.S. pledge to reduce its arms sales to Taiwan, it did not take any

concrete retaliatory action.

"The Chinese won't be too happy with the deal but even if they don't like it at least they were expecting it so they probably won't make too much fuss," one diplomat commented.

Peking regards Taiwan as a breakaway province, and views arms sales to the island as interference in its internal affairs.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman declined to make any immediate comment on the deal worth \$50 million.

The official New China News Agency (NCNA) said in a report from Washington that the "new package showed once again that the Reagan administration wants to continue the arms sale to Taiwan on a large scale."

The latest deal brings total U.S. weapons deliveries to Taiwan to about \$660 million so far in the current financial year.

U.S. arms sales to Taiwan have been the main cause of friction in Sino-U.S. relations, cooled considerably after President Reagan promised to improve Washington's sincerity in honouring the 1980 Taiwan Relations Act.

Taiwanese defence ministry officials said the arms would greatly enhance the island's defence capability.

Millions struggle against new Yangtse flood crest

PEKING (R) — More than two million troops and civilians are struggling to protect dykes along the lower Yangtse River which is threatened by a new flood crest. The New China News Agency (NCNA) said Saturday.

It described the situation as grave, and said that as an emergency measure three sluice-gates had been ordered closed on the Hanjiang River, a tributary of the Yangtse, to stagger the flood peak along its middle reaches.

But it said no damage had been caused when the crest passed through Nanking and other cities and rainfall along the middle and lower stretches had decreased in the last few days.

However, water was still rising at the scenic Yangtse gorges where it was flowing Friday morning at a rate of 41,200 cubic metres per second.

5 Filipino refugees killed

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia (R) — Three Filipino gunmen have killed a family of five in an attack on a Filipino refugee village off the east Malaysian state of Sabah, police said here Saturday.

The gunmen sprayed automatic rifle fire into five huts last Wednesday on the fishing island of Pulau Timba Timba, 32 kilometres off the southeast coast of this Borneo island state.

About 100,000 Filipinos, mainly from the southern island of Mindanao, have fled to East Sabah since the height of fighting between Philippines government troops and secessionist rebels of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNL) in 1972.

Killed in the attack last Wednesday were a Filipino couple and their three daughters who arrived on the island only five weeks ago. Two men and two young girls were injured.

Police said that they were puzzled by the killings as robbery did not appear to be the motive.

The Sabah Times, a state-owned English-language newspaper, said the killers could

have been sent of Moro leaders in the southern Philippines to silence dissidents in the MNLF.

Police would not comment on the newspaper report but police commissioner Jahya Yeop Ishak said the gunmen could have missed their real targets.

"I believe they will strike again," he said.

Typhoon kills 16

MANILA (R) — Typhoon Vera swept out towards southern China Saturday after killing 16 people and injuring 31 as it tore a trail of destruction through the Philippines.

At least 25,000 people, including many whose shanties were blown down by winds of up to 120 kph and threatened by flooding, sought shelter in churches, schools, government buildings and police stations.

The Philippines news agency quoted the provincial governor as saying damage to coconuts and other crops in Quezon Province was estimated at 10 million pesos (\$900,000).

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—I think I could win a tidy sum of money even at the modest stake at which I play—if I never had to make an opening lead. It seems that every time it is my opening lead I find the one card that gives my opponent the contract. I would gladly make you an absentee partner in my game if you could help me out. — R. Malbozzi, Bridgeport, Conn.

(This question has been awarded the weekly prize.) A.—Thank you for your offer, but I am not sure that I can afford it! I can only presume that you are inclined to take an occasional nap at the table, because being a good opening leader simply means you must listen to what the opponents tell you during the auction and act on it.

I do not intend in this column to go into anything as plebian as which card to lead—top of a sequence, fourth best, etc. Instead, I'll try to show you what to look and listen for, to dictate whether you should lead a trump or a plain suit, a long or a short suit, and so on.

Some auctions try out for a trump lead. If your side has shown a considerable amount of strength but the op-

ponents still push on to game, they must have distributional assets. A trump lead could gain you a tempo and enable you to cut down on their ruffing power. Similarly, if the opponents have bid two suits and end up in a third, they might intend playing the hand along crossruff lines. Again, lead a trump.

Here's another obvious case for a trump lead. Suppose that declarer, after having had his suit raised, bids no trump and gets corrected back to his suit. Obviously, dummy expects to score some ruffs, and a trump lead might thwart that.

I have often heard defenders say: "When in doubt, lead trumps!" That is the worst reason for leading a trump that I can think of. However, in cases where no other lead looks attractive, a trump is a reasonable choice—it is the least likely to do harm to your cause.

Lastly, if you have to decide whether to lead your suit or partner's, choose partner's. If you lead your suit and his suit would have defeated the hand, you have struck a mortal blow to partnership confidence. But if you lead his suit and yours would have defeated the hand, it is simply unlucky.

We have run out of space, and the subject is not finished. We will continue in two weeks.

U.S. police recommend criminal action against 'sex tapes' lawyer

LOS ANGELES (R) — Police have recommended that criminal action should be considered against lawyer Robert Steinberg for claiming that films showing senior Reagan administration officials in sex acts had been stolen from his office.

Mr. Steinberg, who says he had seen a showing of the films, reported on Tuesday they had been taken from a tennis bag in his office in the exclusive Beverly Hills district of Los Angeles.

In the latest twist in the sex films saga that has gripped America since last Monday, a statement issued Friday night by Beverly Hills police said:

"Detectives have completed their investigation of Mr. Steinberg's allegations of the theft of films from his office."

"The results of this investigation have been submitted to deputy district attorney (prosecutor) Stanley Weisberg with a recommendation to consider a criminal filing against Mr. Steinberg for making a false police report."

"False reporting is a criminal offence and is punishable as a misdemeanour."

A police sergeant added that a crime considered only a mis-

deemeanour cannot, under California law, be punished by imprisonment and usually results in a fine.

Police did not explain the basis for their recommendation.

Mr. Steinberg, 46, hit the headlines on Monday when he said he had seen sex films involving two administration officials of ambassadorial rank, a congressman and two prominent businessmen "who go back 20 years (with President Reagan)."

Others in the films, he said, included the late Alfred Bloomingdale, a multimillionaire who was a member of Mr. Reagan's so-called "kitchen cabinet" of advisers, his former lover, actress Vicki Morgan who was murdered last week, and three other women.

He said he had been given the films by a "mystery woman" who wanted them to be used to help bargain for a 33-year-old unemployed clerk, Marvin Pancoast, charged with Ms. Morgan's murderer.

The films included natural sex—as we know it—and some sadomasochistic sex. Mr. Steinberg said that he was staying at an inn with a prostitute on the night of the murders in December 1949—had been substantiated.

Italian magistrate visits Sofia to probe leads into papal shooting

SOFIA (R) — An Italian magistrate probing the 1981 shooting of Pope John Paul II has questioned alleged accomplices of the pontiff's Turkish assailant in Sofia, informed Italian sources said Saturday.

Meanwhile, Saturday welcomed the new arms deal with the United States and said it would continue to seek to buy U.S. weapons to defend itself against possible communist aggression.

A foreign ministry statement said the planned sale of \$530 million worth of arms, showed Washington's sincerity in honouring the 1980 Taiwan Relations Act.

Taiwanese defence ministry officials said the arms would greatly enhance the island's defence capability.

Bulgarian airline official whom the Italians are holding in Rome, and return home on Monday.

The sources said Magistrate Martella's Sofia trip had not yet revealed any new elements though some alibis had been checked.

Magistrate Uliano Martella interviewed Bekir Celenk, a Turk held in Bulgaria on suspicion of involvement in international arms and drug trafficking, and Jelio Vassilev, a former employee at the Bulgarian embassy in Rome, the sources said.

They said Magistrate Martella has also questioned Rossitza Antonova, wife of Sergei Antonov, a

former accountant at the Bulgarian embassy in Rome, and return home on Monday.

The sources said Magistrate Martella's Sofia trip had not yet revealed any new elements though some alibis had been checked.

Bulgaria and Italy have no formal accord covering investigations such as this on each other's territory and Magistrate Martella's questioning has taken place through a Bulgarian examining magistrate, the sources said.

Agca has been quoted by Italian newspapers as saying Celenk was to stay awake for a performance of eccentric French composer Erik Satie's "weirdest work," "vexations," to raise funds for a local arts festival. Music teacher Adrius Fish, aged 27, who took turns at an organ with a pupil, Dena Pye, 16, said he would never play it again.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Welsh town survives boring performance

PRESTEIGNE, Wales (R) — Two musicians drove people in this Welsh market town to anger and desperation by playing the world's "most boring piece of music" for 18 hours. "A cruel version of the Chinese water torture," said one listener, among a handful of volunteers sponsored to stay awake for a performance of eccentric French composer Erik Satie's "weirdest work," "vexations," to raise funds for a local arts festival. Music teacher Adrius Fish, aged 27, who took turns at an organ with a pupil, Dena Pye, 16, said he would never play it again.

Mother jailed for debauching daughters

AUCKLAND (R) — A mother who used her two schoolgirl daughters as prostitutes to help pay for a plot of land was given an 18-month jail sentence. Henderson District Court heard that the mother artificially suppressed the menstrual cycle of her partially-deaf daughter, 14, to keep her working as a prostitute. Her sister, 15, was forced to work in a massage parlour and on one occasion had sex with six customers. The prosecution said the girls earned enough in a few months for their parents to pay off £17,000 dollars (\$11,150) on the plot of land. The case came to light after the 14-year-old was found to have venereal disease.

USAF accused of detaining aliens

WASHINGTON (R) — Creatures from outer space are being held prisoner by the United States Air Force, a group of Americans has alleged in court. Pentagon officials said a demand was filed that the air force release "the remains of the extraterrestrial being or beings" the group said it was holding. Air force secretary Vernon Orr has 60 days to respond to the group called citizens against unidentified Flying Object (UFO) secrecy. The officials said. The group implied that some live aliens might be in detention, saying they were being subjected to "unwarranted deprivation of their right to travel." They did not say where they thought extraterrestrials were being held, but UFO groups often allege that it is Wright-Patterson air force base at Dayton, Ohio.

Parrot swears wrong oath

LONDON (R) — A parrot called Michael swore an oath in court here of the wrong kind, telling three magistrates: "F... off." The African grey parrot was produced as an exhibit in a case against a petshop owner accused of selling a similar parrot which refused to talk at all. The case was dismissed. After the hearing Michael ran through his 200-word vocabulary, much of it rude, for the benefit of reporters.

Killer's freezer contains human flesh

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana (R) — A 25-year-old man who kept butchered human flesh and bones in his freezer was found guilty of murdering his roommate. The jury took only 10 minutes to convict Lawrence Crowley who now faces a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. The flesh in the freezer was not identified but prosecutor Chris Philipp said state law only required proof that a human was murdered for a conviction.